THE SCOVRGE OF Corruption.

OR A CRAFTY KNAVE needs no Broker.

Qui bene latuit, bene vixit.
Dominatur fraus in omnibus.

Written by ANTHONY NIXON.

Printed at *London*, for *Henry Gosson*, and *William Hammes*, and are to be sold at his shop in *Pope's-head* Pallace. 1615.

TO THE VVORTHY and Iudicious Gentleman,

ROBERT GARSET *Eſquire.*

SIR, if you onely looke vpon the Title of this little Booke, you will (perhaps) marueil that I am ſo bold to make paſſage of it vnder your Name, it brings ſo harſh a name with it: But if you be pleaſed to looke further into the ſubſtance, I hope you will giue it a kinde intertainement. For I haue taken that courſe in it, not to be offenſiue to any. But if (through miſtaking) ſome that thinke themſelues touched: it proceedeth rather from their owne corruption, then plaine meaning: and in this humble tender of my loue vnto you, I doe but play the ill debtor, who knowing that hee is ſcarce able to enſconce himſelfe againſt beggery, yet goes wilfully into further dangers, in hope to finde pitty at the hands of his Creditors, truſting vpon mitigation or forbearance, till hee bee better able to make ſatisfaction: Euen ſo as I confeſſe my ſelfe bound to you, for ſome benefits receiued; and being vnable to make recompence I haue aduentured to caſt my ſelfe into further perill; in hope to be relieued by your wonted fauour, and

to haue my boldneſſe remitted by your generous reſpects, to which I wholy ſubmit my ſelfe.

For I ſet before your eies a mixt banquet of ſweet, and ſower, mirth and mourning, *Seria cum iocis*. If it be not ſo good as you deſerue, nor ſo rich as I could wiſh it, I muſt intreat you to blam the vanity of our times, which affoords no better *condimenta* or ſeaſonings: I know you loue to reade, for that you know to cenſure: Reade then, as it is writ (willingly) and cenſure as it is ſent (in loue:) Beare with the hardſauourdneſſe of the Title: For *Diamonds* are not vnderualued by their roughneſſe when they are vncut. Nor can it be ſhame to gather a violet, though it grow cloſe to the ground. As I haue better, you ſhall enioy it; Such as it is, if you be pleaſed to embrace it, I ſhall reſt,

In the beſt of obſeruance
deuoted yours

Anthony Nixon.

THE SCOVRGE of Corruption:

OR

A crafty Knaue needs no broker.

Our English Chronicles haue left in remembrance, that in the time of Henry the fourth there liued in sundry places of this Kingdome: but especially about the City of London, diuers lewd persons, that gaue themselues to no good course of life: but because the times were then some-what troublesome, watched diligently, when by the least occasion of mutiny, they might pray vpon the goods of honest persons, and so inrich themselues by their spoile. At the same time likewise there liued a worthy gentleman, whose many famous deeds (which neither time, nor occasion will permit me to rehearse) doe renowne his name to all ensuing Posterities. His name was Sir Richard Whittington, founder of Whittington Colledge, and then time Lord Maior of the Citty of London? This worthy man well obseruing the

dangerous diſpoſition of that euill diſpoſed kind of people, tooke ſuch diſcreet order (after he had ſent many of them to the warres, and they loath to bee ſo well, returned to their former vomit) that in no place about London they might haue entertainement, vnleſſe they applied themſelues to ſuch honeſt exercises, as might witneſſe their maintenance by true and lawfull meanes: If any were found to the contrary, they were ſharpely proceeded withall in iuſtice, as moſt hurtfull and dangerous members of a Common-wealth.

Now in this moſt quiet, and happy time of Peace (vnder our moſt Excellent and Soueraigne Head) when all men (in courſe of life) ſhould ſhew themſelues thankefull for ſo great a benefit, this famous Citty (nay the moſt part of the Kingdome) is peſtered with the like (or worſe kinde of people) that beare an outward ſhew of honeſt diſpoſition, when

——— *fronte politus,*
Allutam rapido ſeruat ſub peſtore vulpem.

Their intentions being in deed very deteſtable, and their behauiours infamous, who, as by many cloſe and cunning practiſes, they doe wrong, and iniury to a multitude of people, to their ſeuerall hurts and vndooings: So, if God ſhould in iuſtice bee angry with vs, as our wickednes hath well deſerued, and (which God forſend) our peace ſhould be moleſted (as in former times) euen as they did: So will theſe be the firſt that will ſeeke our Domeſticall ſpoile and ruine: not ſtilling how they come by it, ſo they may haue it.

By reading therefore, and taking a ſlight ſurucy of theſe foure ſeuerall perſonages, that from diuers places lately preſented themſelues to my ſight, in ſuch antickes attire, and variable carriages, that they ſet my ſenſes at amazement, you ſhall ſee the ſubtile pollicy of foure deceiuers, and diſcouer ſome of their abuſes and corruptions. And this (as neere as I can) is a true touch of their ſeuerall Characters.

The

The first is, *Conſcience.*

The firſt carried the ſhape of a goodly old fatherly man, but it ſeemed hee had beene much wronged, for his cheekes were leane and blodleſſe, his eyes hollow, his looks (like his fortunes) bowne and deiect, his apparell comely, but much torne, his boſome was bare, bloody, and full of wounds, his wriſts and anckles worne (almoſt) to the bones, with bolts and manacles, ſo that I could not imagine, what he was: but that he had beene an ancient wronged priſoner.

The ſecond, *Symon Saywell.*

The ſecond both in place, and order, a proper man, but of a contrary garbe and temper. His cheeks were plumpe, and red, as a cram'd pullet, and couered with red roſe leaues, his lookes cheerefull, the ſap of cherry ſacke, hunge at his muchato: The top of his noſe was ſign'd ore with the Engliſh malt, which the Maſter of Coperſmiths Hall, had tane vp to build almeſhouſes in, for certaine impotent and tradefalne wormes, that peſtred their company. The roofe of his head to my remembrance not much vnlike the property of Tiburne. Red ſtroſſers, and a blew codpiece garded with yellow, like the iags of a Jackeulents ierkin, his gowne vnder one arme, within the folds of that a latine Pſalter, cry him heartily mercy, t'was a Pewter pot, for I ſhould blame him to ſay he euer carried a piece of latine about him ſo much as in conceipt. A pewter veſſell t'was, contain'd ſome quart, or birlady more: vnder one arme his Noſtelle tailey. His gate was ſprightly, his habit anticke, and his geſture apiſh and pearl.

The third, *Feedwell.*

The third a Countrey homeſpun Ruſſetting, none of the fatteſt, and yet his Equinoctiall or waſt, was at leaſt

two els in compaſſe: His face and beard comely, and not leane, either chirke about the muchneſſe of a two penny Pumpion, or a great Cabbage in September, couered ouer with red oker, and (but I knew him to be fled out of England) I ſhould haue tane him for the God of good Houſe-keeping. His apparell comely, and plaine as a pike ſtaffe: His legs like Hercules pillers: His ſides lagging ouer his girdle like an Amazonians dugs: His gate carleſſe, and his lookes not curious.

The fourth, *Nemo.*

The fourth and laſt, was a thin ſnewted fellow, about the Aprill of his yeares, for the ſpring was newly budding vpon his vpper lip: His face well proportioned, his complexion ſallow, his attire ſo full of variety, put my memory into ſuch a quandary, that I haue almoſt loſt it: But to my remembrance thus. His vpper garment was a looſe robe of chaungeable taffeta, ſhie coloured or ſomewhat more bright: which had ſuch a reflecting glaſſe, and was of ſo great a length, it couered and ouer ſhadowed all the reſt. His pace was ſlow, which made me thinke him a Saturniſt. His perſonage tall and comely, an obſerning eye, a ſullen and ſtrefull countenance: and ſtill as I thought to take ſtricter view of his attire, the colour of the roabe ſo dazeled mine eyes, that I cleane loſt it: Some ſtrange fellow I tooke him to be, and but that I held it impoſſible, I ſhould haue thought him inuiſible: For he was but (as it were) a ſolid clowne cut out in the faſhion of a man. Thus hauing giuen you a touch of their ſeuerall habits, as I can remember. I will growe to their forme of diſcourſe, in which you ſhall from their owne mouthes, be made acquainted with their names, and cauſe of meeting, and continued parle.

Quoth goodman Feedwell, (for ſo they did call our fat Countryman): Goodman Conſcience welcome from London: we haue wanted your company in the Country many a day: you were witneſſe to the leaſe my yong Land lord

ſord made me, and want of your Euidence, that was in good eſtimation, now the yong man is come to the liuing, I am like to ſit beſide my right, but now you are come home I hope all ſhall bee well. Old father Conſcience thanks him for his good conceipt, and withall fetcht a heauy ſigh: whats the matter man, quoth Sir Simon Saywell, (for ſo is our quartpot maſter called:) the worſe for mine enemies, quoth the old man, from which number Sir Simon I cannot ſeclude you: for had your deeds beene anſwerable to your name, at my being in London, I had not taſted this long impriſonment, during which I haue not onely ſpent my meanes, vndergone diſcredit, being counted a Banckerout, and indaungered my health: but had it not beene for this vertuous gentleman, Signieur Nemo, that paid my Fees, ſold of mine trons, and at his own coſt and charges bailed me, I had there ſet a period to my wretched life. Alas Sir (replied our Maltworme) it ſtood not in the reach of my habilitie to baile you. The ſome was 1000 pound, your aduerſary mighty, your friends few, and thoſe very poore: Beſides he was my cheefeſt ſolliciter in all my ſuites at Court, and ſhould I haue diſpleaſed him, I might haue hopt without my benefice. At that Signieur Nemo (for ſo was the fourth and laſt in the ſhie coloured roabe called) folding his brow, as if in anger. Thou ſcum of humanity, and baſeſt parte of our mother Earth, haſt thou the ſhape of a man, and art not aſhamed to ſhape ſuch a beaſtly anſwere? Suppoſe his aduerſary were mighty, his cauſe was ink. This poore man, out of his loue to his Countrey, groning vnder the yoake of your baſe and vpſtart Corruption, made their publike griefe, his priuate grieuance: ſold all his meanes, trudg'd vp to London, and there ſoliciting the cauſe of the whole Countrey, was by that Italian Iacke, (whom we may truly terme a Craftie knaue that needs no broker) wrongfully arreſted, & clapt into priſon, thou being by, ſuffereſt him to be laid vp, and not ſo much as offered to baile him.

Alas Sir, quoth Saywell, I durſt not, for one word of his mouth to my Patron, had caſhiered me: Baſe time ob

ſeruing Sycophant. (anſwered Nemo) both thy place authorize thee to reprooue, to open the maſter veine of ſhame, and lance out the putrified and corrupted ſore, and haſt thou the face to ſay, Thou darſt not? Hence beaſtly man: but tis not thy fault, but theirs that countenance thy ignorance, fitter to cobble a ſhooe, then to vndergoe that calling: To which none but free ſpirits, and vndaunted ſoules ſhould be choſen: But I haue long hoped, and at laſt met that happy day, in which ſuch idle and vnneceſſary (naile-eaters that feed and deuoure the Aprill leaues, and May bloſſomes of our Country, ſhall by the hand of Iuſtice be rooted out of the Land, or by the milder Eaſterne wind of mercy, blowne forth the boſome of this peacefull Ile.

That were a happy day indeed (anſwered father Feedwell) but I feare your newes is like an old Booke: Too good to be true, for there's a Crafty Italian gentleman (whoſe name is Corruption) keeps ſuch leuee-coile, here in our Country, we can haue no hoe with him, and till there be ſome good order taken with him, you and ſuch honeſt gentlemen, may feed a ſort of poore ſoules fat with good words, but we ſhall find ſmall redreſſe: But you are a Trauailer, I pray you tell vs, how the goodyer he came to be ſo great in England?

I de faine know that (quoth Conſcience) for in my time when I was but a ſtripling (and yet, young as I was, more regarded) he came into England, and offered his ſeruice to certaine Men of good ſort, but his courſe and behauiour was ſo inſinuating and vile, he was banished the land again. Now I wonder what wind brought him in, after his firſt Exile.

Ile tell you what I know (quoth Nemo) let all the mad dogs ſnarle, and bite their owne gals, I neither feare them nor ſtand in awe of their greatneſſe. This Crafty knaue, (as if occaſion ſerue there be many, that could diuerſly proue it) is a fellow of long continuance in this Ile, marry (as father Conſcience intimates) he hath beene ſo ſuppreſt, and many times baniſht: but ſtill by forreigne deuiſes

ſes he is entred the Land, and at laſt (yet many hun-
dreth yeeres ſince) he grew ſo wealthy, and purchaſt ſuch
friends, that notwithſtanding many vertuous things, and
our late ſacred Miſtreſſe, did their vttermoſt to the ſup-
preſſing, and rooting out of that grounded domination, the
Nobilities abuſer, the Peoples oppreſſor, and poore mens
confounder, yet hath he ſo many priuate maintainers, and
harbourers, that in ſtead of diſgracing and removing him,
his ſtate is ſtronger confirmd, and his friendſhips inaugu-
rate in our hearts.

But (quoth Saywell) me thinks t'were eaſily mended,
for we haue in euery Towne likely a good Iuſtice, a Coun-
ſellour, or Lawyer, were all of my mind, we would preferre
our petitions to them.

Saue he that neere (anſwered Nemo) but becauſe
I ſee you groapt in this Knaues true proceedings, ile
tell you what I know, yet temper'd with ſuch modeſty, as
ſhall (I hope) offend none, that are honeſt, if it touch any
of any other kind, let them thinke it a fault and amend.
Thoſe whom it concernes not, I know will commend
mee.

You talke of preferring a ſupplication to your Iuſtices,
and Lawyers, for their owne parts no doubt, as they are
bound both by allegiance and place, they will doe you
right, but there is none or very few of theſe, into whoſe ſer-
uices, Corruption hath not ſecretly ingrafted ſome Intelli-
gencer, as affiliant, that by one ſallacy, or another, will ſo
mangle the true face of your proceedings, that you ſhall
fall ſhort of your expectations. As that you ſeeke to wound
ſome honeſt mans credit out of hate: Or, for ſome inuete-
rate grudge, ſeeke the vndoing of harmeleſſe gentlemen:
Or if it be ſo apparantly manifeſt, that no colour can ſhew
it contrary: Why, he is my friend, Let mee meditate: He
hurts not you: Euery one would liue: Blame him not to
raiſe his fortunes, Et cætera, quis neſcit? So by this meanes
Iuſtice that ſhould raze and pluck vp ſinne by the roote,
is either for kindred, loue, affection, or eyes of Angels blin-
ded, and by his meanes made the bawde, and doorekeper

of villany. If it be ſo, as it hath beene ſo where Corruption dwelt, true Iuſtice will ſee it amended.

I faith (quoth Sir Simon) this goes with me, Ile neither eat, nor drinke, till our Iuſtice knowes this: with all my heart (quoth Nemo) if he be one of that ſort, ile to his teeth tell him much more: if he be a true Iuſtice, ile requeſt him to ſee the abuſe reformed in others, and I doubt not but he will thanke me.

Gods bleſſing of thy heart (quoth Conſcience) we haue few ſuch as thou art in our Countrey: For when our meadowes are incloſed, and our Commons made ſeuerall by the Lord of the ſoile, we haue not a Swan in the Towne dares ſay he is a gooſe. The reaſon is, we are poore, and they are rich, and one or two Termes ſuite at law, would eat vp a whole Townſhip of vs, poore ſnakes of the Countrey, Lawyers take ſuch vnmercifull fees, and vſe ſuch protracting of cauſes, we can hold no tacke with them. Againe moſt of our oppreſſors, are either Lawyers themſelues, or haue Lawyers to their Sonnes, Nephewes, or acquaintance, ſo that we had as good loſe ſomewhat, as vndoe our ſelues by law, and then looſe that too.

Lord (quoth Nemo) what is the reaſon that the world is at ſo bad a paſſe, we neuer had more teaching then is now adaies: neuer more warnings, nor more lawes eſtabliſhed.

Conſcience.

Whence comes it (ſay you) that the world begins when each hath cauſed an other to reprehend, to wincke at follies, and to ſooth vp ſinners; and draw their daies to diſaſter end? can better reaſon bee alleadged then this, The world ſooths ſin becauſe it liues in ſinne.

HE that doth liue by bribes and vſury,
And hilles his purſe by ſuch vnlawfull gaine,
Doth Fox-like wincke at loathſome leachery,
Till ſuch harme-breeding pleaſure proue his paine.

Craft

Craft giues Ambition leaue to play his plot,
And creſſe his friend becauſe he ſounds him not.

All men are willing worſe and worſe to growe,
And world-like lull themſelues in vaine delight:
But no man pleaſure takes his faults to know,
Or to preuent miſhap with true foreſight:
But hees a *Troian*, hees an honeſt man
That with the world diſſemble will, and can.

Hee that can cogge and lie ſhall haue rewards,
He that to faine and flatter will not feare,
Hee ſhall maintain his wanton wife in gards,
And ſpend his maſter forty pounds a yeere:
But trueth's purſu'd by hate, and he's held wiſe,
That to the world his worldly wit applies.

For folly is both guerdon'd and reſpected,
And ſelfewill frownes when friendſhip doth reproue,
Where honeſty is hated and reiected:
For he that erres, and counſell doth not loue,
Hee thinkes his beſt, an others wits but dull,
Vntill at laſt he proue himſelfe a gull.

And with free heapes of miſchieuous intent,
Gainſt wiſedome doth rebell vnbridled will,
Which hurts himſelfe, neglecting to preuent
Vnhappy happe, by truſting to ſelfeskill:
But are ſuch wiſe? I, as Ampleſtus ſtrong,
That burnt his face becauſe his beard was long.

The wicked man repines to heare his fault,
And folly flings, if good aduice come neere:
But hees beſt likt that with the world can hault,
And with her imperfections beſt can beare:
For cunning ſin is deemed but a ſhift,
And couetouſneſſe held an honeſt thrift.

If thou tell *Shames* that his breath doth ſtinke
And doſt not cogge and ſay tis ſweet, and cleer,
Heel let thee paſſe, and neuer bid thee drinke,
When as *Amphidim* ſhall haue good cheere.
For now who loues to play a worldlings part,
Muſt teach his tongue refrain to tell his heart.

Thus man with man ſtriues to diſſemble ſtill,
And wends from good to bad, from bad to worſe,
And to his owne confuſion followes ill,
Shunning the ſeeing eie, not ſinfull courſe,
Holding the meane to make him fortunate,
Is in this world to winke at each eſtate.

He is a fellow polliticke and rare,
That with a ſeeming loue can colour hate,
Whoſe courtly kindneſſe giues a Congie faire,
When as he aimes to ouerthrow a ſtate.
For moſt men now in priuate will defraud
Them, that in publicke they doe moſt applaud.

Me thinkes (anſwered Nemo) if abuſes bee ſo groſſe, ſo palpable, and ſo generall; they ſhould be complaind off to the Prince. Much the better (quoth Conſcience) our petitions goe thorow ſo many hands, it is eyther loſt, or borne, or comes to ſome of their friends hands, againſt whom it is preferred; then are we checkt, called ſeditious knaues, and goe home perhaps an hundred miles with a flea in our eare.

I muſt confeſs (quoth Nemo) this hath been a fault, but feare not, we haue now both a ſkilfull and a painefull gardener, that will not lay the whole care of weeding his kingdome vpon others, but himſelfe in perſon will heare; and if hee finde it true, rote out thoſe ranke weedes, that haue heretofore ouerſhadowed, and with their broad and bushy toppes, hindered the growth of other better & more wholſome

ſome hearbs. God long maintaine his health (quoth Conſcience) that hath ſuch care of his wronged Commons, and I beſeech you ſtand our good friend, that this ſuperfluitius gallant knaue Corruption, grow not inward with thoſe that are the meanes to that ſacred maieſty, that beares ſuch a reſpective care ouer our Weale.

Ile giue you my word for that (quoth Nemo) for I know them ſo well tempered, that neither feare, nor loue, gold, nor hate can ſtirre and drawe their affections from the true courſe of Iuſtice.

Marry (quoth Feedewell) would we had one of thoſe Gentlemen in our Countrey, for we haue fellowes that by meanes of friends, as they ſay, kéepe the lining of a whole Townethippe in their handes, and they but get the Countenance of ſome Noble man on their backs, they are ſo proud, a poore man may not ſpeake with them vnder a couple of Capons. For example ſake, heeres Sir Simon Saywel, no Clergy man, for he can neither write, nor read, and yet he hath at this howre three or foure Parſonages in his owne handes, the leaſt of them worth forty or fifty pounds a yéere, and kéepes honeſt poore Scholars to reade vnder him, where her purſes vppe ſome two hundred pounds for a ſong in a manner, and hires but a Preacher to make foure ſermons in a yéere. Now the poore men that take all the paines, are ſcarce allowed fiue poundes a yéere. I thinke ſome honeſt Gentleman like you Mr. Nemo, might doe God good ſeruice to ſée theſe abuſes reformed, that Lay men ſhould not beare ſuch ſway in the Church.

Feare not (Father Conſcience quoth hee) gather a ſhort note of all corruptions and abuſes in their kinde, againſt the next Tearme, and Ile haue him knowne for a crafty knaue, you ſhall heare how Ile handle both him, and his Appendires.

I marry (quoth Feedewell) but while the graſſe growes, the ſtéede ſtarues. But as I remember Sir Simons Pounthanking. Ile not forget how a couple of Turners ſerued two Gentlemen of mine the laſt Tearme, Attorneys thou wouldſt ſay.

I cannot tell how you call them, but I think they cannot haue a fitter name then Turners: for if we goe to lawe once, hee our cause good, or bad, they'l so turne and winde it, that we turne the bottome of our purses vp, and finde nere a crosse. And since you are so kinde a gentleman, Ile not bee vnmannerly mouthed, to tell you a merry, yet a true tale.

A merry tale how two Attornies iugled together to fetch off their Clyents.

A couple of neere kinsmen of mine, called Pigeons, went to Lawe, and fedde their Attorneys: Either perswading their Clyents their cause was good, and kept them so long in hope of bad I wist, that they were faine to sell their house to continue lawe for the bride. To be short, one of the Brothers going to carry a couple of Capons to his Attorney to vrge speedy dispach of his suit, hee told him that for a couple of Angells extraordinary, hee would assure him of iudgement on his side the next Court day: The poore man glad of that newes went home, sould a couple of prettie heyfers to prouide the money, and carried it home. His Attorney to manifest how forward hee was in his behalfe, writ a letter to his aduersaries Attorney to intreate him the cause might come to present dispatch; and who should carry it but this Pigeon: well glad was he of his good successe, and to the lawier hee goes; and by the way hee proued exceeding drowsie, and fell a sleepe:: In his sleepe hee dreamt that hee saw the two Attorneys drinking, and exceeding merry in a stately Gallery, and two tame doues came flying in at the Casement, houering about them: And whilest they sate laughing the poore tame birds, flew about into the fields, and gardaines adioyning, and in their beaks, brought wheat, peaze, and such graines, as by their industry they could finde, and presented it to the lawiers, who still as they were gonne for more, laught at their folly: At last the poore birds being tired, would haue eaten some of the graines they had

brought

brought: But the couetous Attorneys hunted the nauy away, and (not able to bring any more) shut the casement. At their vnkindnesse he awaked, and comparing the kindnesse of the two doues to his brother and him, thought it might be a spectacle of their owne folly: But then calling to minde his Attorneys promis, and hope of his suits dispach, he began to checke his rashe iudgement. Notwithstanding he concluded with himselfe to see the contents of the letter: with that vnripping the seale, he began to reade, and found the letter written to this effect: The nest of Pigeons are ripe; doe but you plucke the one, and ile pluck the other, and weel not leaue them a feather to their backes. This vnexpected newes stroke the fellow into such a quandary, that for a good while hee stood like a man parted from his senses, at last comming to himselfe, he began thus:

Why how now Pigeons? are thy wits a woolgathering? hast thou bin once scorched in the fire, and wilt thou still dally with the flame? No, though thy Attorney has built his nest with some of thy feathers, ile reserue the rest to keepe me warme. In this resolue, he laid his staffe on his neck, and his hand vnder his sine, and setting the best foote afore, homeward he went: whom should he mete by the way, but his brother, (betwixt whom this deadly feud was) who perceiuing twas her, forsooke the path, and crept ouer the Fallowes, and sommer leas, as if some occasion of businesse had called him that way: but the other knowing the length of his suits by his owne lack, guest where his shue pinched him, though he complained not, & though he knew him full of stomacke, and that he had rather spend halfe his land, then any way come to agreement, yet he out of his brotherly affection determined a nerer cut to the matter: whereupon mending his pace, not in hope to haue his wages mended (as the fellow saith) but with an intent to amend somwhat amis, and set loue where none was. Hauing ouertooke him in a greene Lea, as hee stood giuing directions to his Reapers, he pinckt him by the sleeue, and very kindly gaue him the time of the day, and

related vnto him what had happened. Hee careleſſe either of him, or his diſcourſe, ere hee had ended his ave, gaue him the vale, and prepared to depart: but hee not willing to giue ouer ſo good an occaſion in the plaine field, ſeconded his firſt aſſault with the light of the letter, which driue his brother into ſuch a maze, that taking him by the hand, after pardon craued for his ſtrangeneſſe, he led him into a ſhadie brake, where hee told him the Lawyers proceeding from the beginning to the end: whereupon they determined to let the matter lie vntil the next Court day, to try if there were any regard of conſcience, or reſpect of humanity in them. The Court day come, they attended from ſix in the morning, till eight at night, but as the prouerb is, They were early vp, and nere the neare: whereupon they complained, and had brought it to this paſſe, they ſhould both haue been diſcarded, and pitcht ouer the Bar for wranglers: but in the meane time, being (as it ſeemed they were) very inward with Seigneiour Corruption, that was Broker ſufficient crafty to make good both his ſinne, and others proceedings, hee vndertooke their cauſes, and made them cleere: the poore man had bad words, and their labour for their paines, and the Lawyers in as great credit and eſtimation as before.

At this Nemo interrupted him, and aſked if the men were yet liuing? No, replyed Conſcience, they died long agoe, but I trace me ſome of their linage line to continue their helliſh and vncharitable beginning. Nemo began to ſpeake bitterly againſt the vnmercifull proceedings of the Lawiers: but Conſcience did thus interrupt him, Temper your anger good Seigneiur Nemo, and let mee ſpeake impartially for all; Though I haue had much wrong by Law, yet I condemne not altogether the profeſſors, they are but the hooke and Iron fore that Bribery vſes to tread vpon the naked boſoms of poore reſtleſſe people: therefore to raile againſt them, were as if a dog ſhould bite the ſword he is ſtrucken with, which of it ſelf is altogether harmleſs: So are Lawyers like ſwords or Ranes wherewith bribery ſtrikes the reſtleſſe Comminalty: For till he

had

had a hand in buying and ſelling offices, the Lawyers both would and could haue done more for an Angell, then they can ſince with twe. I haue heard (and as I dare not affirme it for trueth, ſo I cannot condemne it for a lie) that there are nons (or at the leaſt very few) Offices belonging to the Lawe, from, and out of which bribery doth not fetch ſome tribute q annuall ſtipend. Hence then I gather bribery or corruption being the cauſe of oppreſſion in that kind, his power being removed, it neceſſarily followes that the effect muſt die.

Why then (quoth Nemo) it ſeemes you enuy not the honeſt gain of painefull Lawyers? No, anſwered Conſcience, I ſpeake impartially: neither for loue of the one, nor feare of the other. I pitty the ſtate of wellminded Lawyers, as much as any one, and grieue that euer I liued to ſee that malapart Jack Corruption to haue ſuch a hand ouer them.

How Corruption being once exiled this Kingdome, ſent Emulation and Faſhion to make way for him againe.

Then thus for Emulation.

I Le tel you my poor opinion (anſwered Nemo) This crafty knaue being expulſt this Kingdom, ſent his inſinuating children Emulation, and Faſhion to make way for him, who intruding themſelues by degrées into all ſocieties, like toward impes to practiſe and effect his will that ſent them. Emulation, he as he eſpies occaſion, thruſts himſelfe into the company of men of the better ſort, and fills their heads with proclaimations, what a rare Lordſhip ſuch an one hath purchaſt? what a ſumtuous houſe another hath builded, and vrges him to caſt about for the like, intimating his meanes to be as great, his friends as many, and his hopes as poſſible.

The well minded gentleman (before perhaps not dreaming of any ſuch matter) lending an eare to his idle diſcourſe, by his perſwaſions, determines to vſe all meanes to put his words in practiſe, and aske's his further aduice

in

in attaining it. Hee glad of that, ioynes with Occaſion, tells him of Siegnior Bribery: by whoſe acquaintance and furtherance, hee ſhall eaſily attaine his purpoſe, marry it will coſt him ſome few Angells, to buy his aſſiſtance. Being tickled with this newes, he ſpares no coſt to purchaſe his acquaintance, keeps him cloſe in his houſe, and giues him the beſt entertainement hee can deuiſe. Being once entred his ſociety, he cleane forgets the moderne ſtate of his Auncеſtors, and makes his flight ſeuen miles beyond the man i'th Moone, and to maintaine Corruption in his higher matters, diues him his preſident in lower; rackes his poore tenaunts, rayſes his rents, and ſayes he has made a Leaſe ont to a poore man for three lines. Let but an other come, and giue his wife a Veluet Gowne, his ſonne a horſe, or his daughter a Taffety Peticoate, and himſelfe an vnreaſonable fine, or incombe, and there ſhall be ſome vnperfect clauſe found i'th leaſe to colour, and face their practtiſe, and the poore man (that perhaps ſould all his wiues to purchaſe it, not three yeeres before) ſhall by violence be thruſt out, and loſe all, I though his wife and children beg, he ſhall finde no remorſe but the Lawe, where he bids the poore man ſeeke his redreſſe. For knoweth that Bribery, whom he ſees, will maintaine his cauſe: and the poore oppreſſed man muſt either bee glad to put finger in the eie, & lime by the loſſe, or ſeeking redreſſe, bee clapt in Limbo patris, and after a twelue moneths impriſonment be inioyned to aske his mercileſſe Landlord forgiuenеſſe.

I faith (quoth Feedewell) haue they ſuch tricks in their budgets? Well, you ſhew directly the proceedings and effects of Emulation: and what waie hee makes for his Father Corruption his entrance into the Land. How is his other ſon Faſhion imployed?

By what waies Faſhion the ſecond ſonne of Corruption makes entrance for his Father into this Kingdome.

I Le tell you (quoth Nemo) and yet perhaps I ſhall purchaſe the ill will of a ſort that I much reuerence and honour,

nour. Faſhion is ſecond ſonne to Corruption, borne (as I haue read in Italy, nurſt in Fraunce, and in his childhood brought ouer into England, by certaine, more humerous then trusty honourable gentlemen, and yet no enemies to his Father. Comming into England, being a very forward wag, according to the prouerbe, An ill weed growes a good ſpeed: hee was preferred to attend diuers gentlewomen, with whom he proceeded as his elder brother had don with their husbands, though by an other courſe. After by his dutifull ſeruice, hee had ingrafted himſelfe into their good opinions, he began to diſcourſe of the ſtrange and rare faſhions vſed in his Countrey: As if a gentlewoman were borne with haire as blacke as iette, hee could by Art fruſtrate the workemanſhippe of Nature, and colour it as yellow as gold: if time (enemy to beauty) had by continuance writ downe his caracters of age in their foreheads, he could by the meanes of Art helpe, and make good that defect: make a browe of fifty, as ſmoth, and able to ſhew, as one of fifteene. On him attending Monſieur Shred, an Italian Taylor, ſnipt out of a peece of Deuonſhire Carſie, who with the ſhéeres of preferment, could at his pleaſure cut out a ſhape of a new faſhion, ad placitum, in an houres warning. Theſe trifloues, with their ginny phreeſes, and Italionate diſcourſes, ſo ſet a fire the brazing thoughts of our yong gentlewomen, that what ſoeuer newfaſhion, Shred inuented, they would haue, or their husbands ſhall heere out, on both ſides of the head: yet ſome more reſpective then then the reſt, would out of better conſideration, caſt with themſelues, My husbands meanes are but weak, & his charge of houſekeeping great and if I ſtretch his liuing to his breadth, it will not hold out: Tuſh (quoth Faſhion) the French is your onely garbe, breake vp houſekéeping, turne away thoſe Bréeſe-eating ſwaines, ſell away your great horſes: a Coach-man and a Page are attendants enough. As for your offices of ſeruice, let me alone, I could ſupply fiue or ſix of them my ſelfe, and will be leſſe charge to you, and perhaps more gaine to me. Then will I bring your husband acquainted

with a gentleman my father Corruption, that ſhall direct him a courſe far leſſe troubleſom, and much more commodious. Thus by the meanes of his forerunners Faſhion, Pride, Emulation, &c. he became great, and drew the moſt part of this Ile to his acquaintance. Now I cannot rightly blame any one ſort more then an other, ſince his familiarity is generall, and equally imbraced of the moſt, onely thoſe true temperd ſpirits of Nobility excepted, who from time to time ſince his firſt diſcovery, have made it their cheifeſt labour to ſpend their vtmoſt indevours in voting of him out: But her having ſo many heads, that as faſt as one is cut off, there ſpringe vppe more in the roome. The onely way that I can preſcribe for his finall remove, is that every man ſhould take advantage of Conſcience, and put themſelves to the true taſte of his touch, and finding how far he has drawn them from the end of their Creation, vtterly Caſhire, and for ever abiure his hellish ſociety.

This is the eaſieſt and neereſt courſe; and thus much I devine, that whoſoever, either vpon hope of priuate gayn, or preſumtion of friends, conceale or harbour that Arch Caterpiller of England, will by the carefull induſtry of vigilant Arethe be found out, and either hang with his welthy hopes about his necke, or like a vagrant wander into his owne Land with him for company, where all good mindes hope they ſhall meet entertainement fitting ſuch inconſtant fugitiues.

You may ſir (quoth Feedewell) the longer a man lives, the more he may learne: I might haue lived till all my friends had been weary of mee, ere I ſhould haue found out this: but ſome reaſon there was that the cat winckt, when both her eies were out. I blame not our Landlords to kepe ſuch racket ith Countrey, when this vile Italian varlet hath his agents in the City: For I knew a man of good worſhip my ſelfe, giue away as much Velvet in gownes and ſeperts about an office, as would haue made a Steeple a nightcapps. But (quoth Nemo, cutting him off) whom doe you blame for that, the begger,

or

or the Patron? Marry (quoth Feedewell) the Patron: for I will count him a fole that will not bestow twenty or thirty pounds in guifts, to get an Office worth thirty pounds a yeare.

You speake out of all discretion (answered Nemo) and such grosse and unsensible parts as yours, cast scandall, & reproach without respect, or difference: as a curre having bin cast into a puddle shakes himselfe, and casts his filth upon all that stand within his reach: so you having your eare filled with muddy and scandalous reports, cast them forth, commonly as the blind man shoots at the Crow.

Thus much let mee (not for feare, but out of reverent modesty and equity) speake in the behalfe of wronged Patrons. Suppose your selfe or any other, belong, or follow some worthy Gentleman; an Office under his guift stands holde, which he neither knows, nor respects: having received some kindnesse from him before, presumes if you can make som friends to the Patron, you may obtaine it: In this resolue you out of your free will, and rich hope of their assistance, give a Lady velvet for a gowne, silke stockings or so: they receive it, and work meanes for the obtaining of your suite: You are possest of it, where before perhaps it was an hundred pounds a yeere, you raise it to two hundred pounds, whose fault is this? Or say you had two or three Offices before, yet your petition is, that you are a poor Attendant of his Fortunes, & wanting meanes, such a peece of waste ground or so, to such, or such a value, lies void, and would stand you in some stead: you get it, he gives it with a free heart, and to a good intent: but you contrary to his intent, and all honest proceedings invert his meaning, and abuse his bounty. But knew such Patrons, or givers of Offices, what inconveniences they bred, they would keepe their credits from your scandall, and your greedy auarice from such preferment.

Indeed (answered Conscience) there are a number of this condition, that walking in the shade of some great man, like Æsops Storke, care not how many poore men

they eate vp and deuoure: But to quittance your tale of Corruptions firſt-arrinall: Ile tell you one mad prancke a Fellower of his did in our Country.

A fine peece of knauery done by a Churchwarden in ſhew of piety and religion.

THere was a man of good credit, and no ſmall honeſty reputed: for was now a daies thine mens honeſties by the Kings booke, ſo much in the pound: ſo that if he bee weighty in the purſe, he muſt needs be honeſt. He ſhall be nameleſſe in this place, and yet for a greate matter you ſhall finde him regiſtred in Bulles Rallender, amongſt the ranks of his beſt Benefactors. This Franklin (I ſcorne to doe the attribute of gentility ſo much wrong, as to lay it vpon him) being one of the head men of the parith, and hauing paſt thorough many vnder Offices of his Reuerendſhippe, as Scauenger, Sideman, cum multis alijs, hee was by the generall conſent of the Townelhippe elected Church-warden, and to win the name of a Benefactor to the Church, and haue his name writ vp in Roman letters ouer one of the glaſſe windowes. The boyes playing at ſtoole ball, by chaunce broke a quarry of the glaſſe, whereupon he complayned to the Townelhip, and either had, or did his vtmoſt to haue the poore boy whipt, and vnder ſhew of zeale (which had a little afore ſcorcht him, he tooke mee downe the whole window, and at his owne proper coſts & charges built vp another in the place: But by report of the workemen, the new was too foote euery way leſſe then the old. And the ſame Church-warden two months after built him a new window in his Parlor, with the ſame glas he tooke downe at the Church, yet ſtands his name in billanous Roman letters ouer the window for a good Benefactor. The ſame yeare the forelaid Founder continuing his auncient care of maintaining the Church, one part of the Leades being faulty, and a droppe or two of raine falling through, looke vp, and ſpied the Church well leaded, preſently had a knauiſhe Crochet in his head, a foote beyond Ela, and with a zealous verily, broke into theſe words

words, Haue we a care to cloath our pampered bodies, and ſee the Church vnapparrelled? this muſt and ſhall be remedied: whereupon without any more words, hee ſent for workmen, and the next day ſet them a worke, to vnlead the Church cleane. That day he ſet Thatchers a worke, and in ſtead of the Leade coate, clapt on a terkin of ſtraw: according to that of Dionyſius, who comming into a Church, he ſaw many Idolls richly cloathed, ſome in gold, and ſome in ſilver: he diſroabed them all, and made them good handſome ſuits of Linſey wolſey. Being aſkt the reaſon, Oh (quoth he) theſe golden coates in winter were ſo could, that the Saints wer fain to blow their fingers ends to catch them a heate, and in ſommer ſo heavy, they could not walke abroade for heate, plainly checking the vaine ſuperſtition of thoſe that were prodigall in beſtowing ſuch bounty vpon a ſtone: but (quoth he) I out of a tender reſpect of their healths, haue made them good Linſey-wolſey caſſocks, good & warm for winter, & receiving light & cole for ſommer. So this Church-warden ſeeing the foundation of the Church ſo weake for the Leaden couer, cloathed it in ſtraw, and turned the leade to his priuate vſe, which by the iudgement of the workemen, trebly equalled his ſtubble vpper garment, beſides the pariſhes allowance which was not little. About the ſame time, a friend of his, as I remember, his brothers ſonne, for ſome treſpaſſe againſt the Lawe, lay in priſon vpon a reprine, and ſome ten pound matter would haue purchaſt his pardon. He hauing none, or very fewe friends of ability to diſburſe ſo much money on the ſuddaine made meanes to him being his vncle, and ſent his letter by two ſufficient poore men, to enter bond for the repayment of it, his anſwere was, he would doe any reaſonable matter for his kinſman, to his power, but he was imployed about building, and repaying the Church, and not having of his owne to finiſh it, hee was faine to ſtrech his credit to borrow. The poore men vrgd in what a deſperat eſtate his kinſmans life ſtood, and paſt all recouery, without his aide, but all in vain, they had a cold ſute of it, and as far as I could learne, the vn-

cies vnkindneſſe coſt the poore yong man his life.

At that they all interupted him, ſaying, twas pitty hee liued, nay more then that (quoth Feedewell) I haue been credibly informd, that vnmercifull vncle had in his hands a will of that yong mans Fathers, by vertue whereof hee was to receiue at the death of his mother, being an aged and impotent woman, a Farme, rented at thirty pounds a yeare: and a quarter of Wheat will not ſtop their mouths that ſay, hee was the chiefe man that incited the young mans enemies to ſeeke the extremity of Law, in hope to poſſeſſe the ſame land, which came rightly to paſſe, for the young man dead, his carefull mother liu'd not long after, at whoſe death for want of heires, the land fell to him as next of kinde. The Diuell helps his ſeruants ſtill (quoth Nemo) but your tale tends nothing to the Theame wee handle, and your cloſe com no nerer then your Exordium, you will haue villanous battailes made againſt you: Our purpoſe is to talke of Corruption, and here's nothing of that reliſh yet. If I might (then anſwered Feedewell) I'de come ouer ſome of their thumbs, with Cammer Gurtons prouerbe, and requeſt them either to heare out my tale, or kiſſe the backeſide of the booke, and trade it on. for their labour.

But to the matter, no ſooner were the two honeſt ſolliciters of the poore mans ſute departed, but this zealous Church-builder, that had not a penny to caſt at a dogge, could finde two hundred pounds to buy the reuerſion of an Office for his Sonne. and for twenty nobles giuen him of an other, made ſute to a friend of his, and got a repriues for as honeſt a man as euer cryed ſtand. This was no braunch of Bribery, but one mans tale is good, till an others be heard. He is repriued, (and for bribes and guifts that he receiued from his friends, being Foreman of the Jury, contrary to all Conſcience) ſaues his life. But his his poore kinſman paſſing vnder the ſame Jury, came to his long home. Within ſhort time after this moſt charitable deede, twas his fortune to ſtay in Kent, and there came to be head Conſtable, during which Office hee continued

and

and ſtrengthned his former acquaintance with the company of Saint Nicholas clarkes, and now by reaſon of his Office could doe them much more good and fauour, then before: For had they taken any prize, his houſe was their harbour, and his credit their cloake, till the heate of the hue and cry was ouer. And I pray you what vnder Conſtable or Headborow durſt bee ſo sawcy as to ſearch there? Beſides, it was euidently proued, diuers gentlemen of his acquaintance trauelling with any charge of money about them, would make his houſe their Inns, and requeſt his company and aide for their ſafe paſſage, being reputed a very vertuous man. But marke how kindly he vſed them, or at leaſt ſome of them; It fortuned a young gentleman, a friend of mine, from whom I learned this intelligence, trauailing that way, with ſome hundred pounds or more, and hauing ſent his man backe to diſpatch ſome other buſineſſe at home, hee requeſted him to fauour him ſo much, as to let a ſeruant of his beare him company, telling him what ſtore of money he had, and that he was next to tender it at London vpon a bond: he very carefull of the young gentlemans ſafety as it ſeemed, told him the day was old, and the waies dangerous, and ſhould by no meanes leaue his houſe that night, but in the morning (as early as his pleaſed) not only his man, but hee himſelfe for the more ſecurity would beare him company: which kindneſſe the young man accepted very gratefully. Whereupon our high Conſtable intending to bee well paid for his nights lodging, ſent to three or foure of his conſorts in theſe actions, and appointed in what place, and in what houer they ſhould meet their prey, which tooke effect: For the next morning very early our ciuill high Conſtable cald vp the yong Gentleman, and he, & one of his men rod to bring him the ſafeſt and neereſt way: Scarce had they rod the quantity of a mile, but vnder a wood ſide they wer ſet vpon by three or foure Gallants, who not only made the young Nouice an hundred pound lighter, but with vile words abuſed our honeſt Conſtable, tooke away his money, and were very hardly intreated to let him ſcape with life.

There

There was no knauery (quoth Conſcience) but how came his villany diſcouered?

Ile tell you (quoth Feedewell) the Gentlemans man, whom I tould you before he ſent back vpon ſome buſines, was by this time returned, and came to the Conſtables houſe, thinking to call his maſter, and being there theſe three gallants, not dreaming of any ſuch matter, came galloping into the yard, turned their horſes into the ſtable, and through a back garden, to which themſelues had keys, went to their chambers. The fellow noted all this, but neither knew nor ſuſpected what had happened till hee met his Maſter, whom Mr. Conſtable had ſent an other way. The fellow hearing his Maſter deſcribe the colour of their horſes, and attire of the men, ſtrait ſaw a pad in the ſtraw, and told his Maſter what he had ſeene, who ſeeing how vnkindly they had vſed the Conſtable, and taken away his money, would by no meanes be wonne to credit him. The Fellow grounded in the certainety of his reſolue, quite contrary to his Maſt. knowledge, went to a Iuſtice, acquainted him with that he ſaw, and requeſted his aide and authority for the triall of his ſuſpect, which he graunted, and ſent to beſet the houſe: where to be ſhort, they were all taken with the money about them: and the next Aſſizes made their ſeuerall recantations out of a hempen pulpit.

Beleeue me (quoth Conſcience) they met but their deſerts, but to quittance your tale Ile tell you an odde ieſt, plaid betweene a couple of crafty knaues: wherein one deceiued the other.

How one crafty knaue cunningly ouer-reacht an other.

Suſpend your iudgements till you heare this diſcourſe following, and then as you pleaſe cenſure of a couple of knaues that deceiued one an other: for it hath bin vſed a common by-word, A crafty knaue needs no Broker, by which it ſhould appeare, that a craftier knaue

knaue then a Broker can hardly be found.

A Country Lady ſent by a ſeruant, whom ſhee might well truſt, to prouide her a gowne according to ſome directions which ſhe had giuen him, and the outſide and lace (euery other thing no doubt being anſwerable) ſhew that it was of good price: for the Taylor had no leſſe then ſeauenteene yards of the beſt black Satten could be got for money, and as much gold lace (beſide ſpangles) as coſt thirteene pounds, what elſe I know not: but let it ſuffice; thus much was loſt: the manner how, followeth thus.

The Satten and lace being brought to the Taylor that ſhould make the Gowne, and ſpread abroad on the ſhop-bord to be meaſured; certaine craftie knaues chanced to to goe by, who ſeeing ſo rich a lace, and ſo excellent good ſatten, began to lay their heads together, and deuiſe how they might make purchaſe of it: and quickly they thought it was to be done, or not at all. In a crew of craftie knaues there is (for the moſt part) one more ingenious and ſubtile then the reſt, or at leaſt counts to make himſelfe more famous then the reſt: as in this company there was one at that inſtant did ſweare his cunning ſhould deepely deceiue him, but he would haue both the lace and ſatten: and hauing layed the plot with the reſt, how their helpe might ſtand him in ſtead, they proceeded in this manner.

They noted the Seruingman well that ſtood in the ſhop with the Taylor, and gathered by his diligent attendance that her had ſome charge of the gowne to bee made there: By him therefore they purpoſed to worke their trechery, and to vſe him as an inſtrument to beguile himſelfe.

One of them ſitting on a ſeate neere the Taylors ſtile, could eaſily heare the talke that paſſed betweene the Seruingman and the Taylor, where amongſt other communication, it was concluded that the gowne ſhould be made of the ſelf ſame faſhion in euery reſpect, as an other Ladies was not far off, and that meaſure being taken by her, the ſame would fitly ſerue the Lady for whom the gowne was to be made. The Seruingman intended to ſpeake with

the Lady, and vpon a token agreed betweene them (which he cunningly ſpake ſo loud, that this crafty knaue heard it) he would as her ſeruice ſerued, certifie the Taylor, and he ſhould bring the ſtuffe with him, to haue the Ladies opinion both of the one and the other.

The ſeruingman being gone about his buſineſſe, this ſubtill mate that had liſtened to all their talke, acquainteth his Companions both with the determination, and token appointed for the Taylors comming to the Lady. The guide and leader of all the reſt for trillany, thought there was no one but was better ſkilled in ſuch matters then in honeſty. He appoints that one of them ſhould goe to the Tauerne, which was not far off, and laying two fagots on the fire in a roome by himſelfe, and a quart of wine filled for countenance of their treachery. An other of that Crew ſhould giue attendance on him as, if hee were his maſter, being bare headed, and humbly anſwering (Sir) at euery word. To the Tauerne goeth this crafty counterfeit gentleman, and his ſeruant waiting on him, where euery thing was perfourmed, as is before rehearſed. When the Maſter Knaue calling the drawer, demanded if there dwelt not nere hand a ſkilfull Taylor, that could make a ſuit of veluet for himſelfe, marry it was to be done with very great ſpeede.

The Drawer named the Taylor that we now ſpeak off, and vpon the Drawers commendation of his cunning, the man was ſent for in all haſte to the gentleman, for whom he ſhould vnder this ſute of Veluet. Vpon talke had of the ſtuffe, and how much was to be bought of euery thing: hee muſt immediately take meaſure of this crafty knaue: this counterfeit gentleman, becauſe hee knew not when hee ſhould return that way again, and afterwards they would goe to the Mercers.

As the Taylor was taking meaſure of him, bare headed, as if he had been ſome ſubſtantiall gentleman in deede: This crafty mate had cunningly got his purſe out of his pocket, at the one ſtring whereof was faſtned a little key, and at the other his ſeale ring: whether hee got any thing

elſe

thing elſe or no, he was ſure of this booty already, and ſtepping to the window he cuts the ring from the purſe, & by his ſuppoſed man (rounding him in the eare) ſends it to the plot layer of this knauery, minding to traine the Taylor along with him, as it were to the Sheeters, whils (he the meane time) take order for the other matter.

Afterwards ſpeaking loud to his man, Sirra (quoth he) diſpatch what I bade you, and about foure of the clock meete me in Pauls, by that time the Taylor and I ſhal haue diſpatcht. To Cheapſide goes the honeſt Taylor, with a notorious diſſembler, not miſſing his purſe for the ſpace of two howers after. In leſſe then halfe which time, the ſatten and gold lace was likewiſe gotten by the other Knaue from the Taylors houſe in this order;

Being ſure the Taylor ſhould be kept abſent, hee ſends an other mate home to his houſe, who abuſed his ſeruants with this deuiſe; That the Ladies man had met their maſter abroade, and had him to the other Lady to take meaſure of her, and leaſt they ſhould delay the time too long, hee was ſent for the ſatten and lace, declaring the token appointed, and withall giuing the Sheeters ſeale ring for better confirmation of his meſſage. The ſeruants could doe no leſſe but deliuer it, being commaunded (as they ſuppoſed) by ſo credible teſtimony: neither did the leiſure of any one ſerue to goe with the meſſenger, who ſeemed an honeſt young gentleman, and carried no cauſe of diſtruſt in his countenance: wherefore they deliuered him the lace and ſatten, folded vp together as it was, and deſired him to will their Maſter to make ſome ſpeede home, both for cutting out of worke, and other occaſions.

To a Broker fit for the purpoſe, goes this knaue with the ſatten and Lace, who knowing well they could not be com by honeſtly, nor any thing elſe he brought of that crew, either gaue them not ſo much as they would haue, or at leaſt as they iudged they could haue in an other place: for which the Ringleader of the Knauery vowed in his minde to be reuenged on the Broker. The Maſter Knaue who had ſpent two howers and more with the Taylor, and would

not like of any Velvet: when he perceiued that he mift his purſe, and could not deuiſe how, or where hee had loſt it, ſhewed himſelfe very ſorry for his miſhappe; and ſaid in the morning hee would ſend the velvet home to his houſe, knew where to ſpend it better then any he had in the ſhops; home goes the Taylor very ſadly, where hee was entertained with a greater miſchance: For there was the Ladies ſeruingman, ſweating and ſtamping that he had not ſeene their maſter ſince the morning they parted, neither had hee ſent for the ſatten and Lace: But when the ſeruants iuſtified their innocency, begnilded both with the true token reherſed, and their maſters ſeale ring, it exceedeth my cunning to ſet downe words anſwerable to the exceeding griefe and amazement on either part: but moſt of all the honeſt Taylor, who ſped the beſt by the Brokers wilfulneſſe as afterwards it happned, which made him the better brooke the loſſe of his purſe. That night all meanes were vſed that could bee, both to the Mercers, Brokers, Goldſmiths, Goldfiners, and ſuch like, where happily ſuch things doe come to be ſold: But all was in vaine, the only help came by the inuenter of this villany, who ſcant ſlaying all night, in regard of the Brokers extreame gaining both by him, & thoſe that he knew practiſed the like knaueries. The next morning he came by the Taylors houſe, at what time hee eſpied him with the Ladies ſeruing-man comming forth of the doores, and into the Taueme hee went to report what a miſhap he had vpon the ſending of him thither the day before.

As he was but newly entred his ſad diſcourſe, in comes the party offended with the Broker, and hauing heard all, (whereof none could make better report of then himſelfe) he takes the Taylor and ſeruingman aſide, and pretending great griefe for both their cauſes, demaunded what they would thinke him worthy of, that could help them to their goods againe. On condition to make with ſuch a friend, offer was made of fiue pounds, and after ſundry ſpeeches paſſing betweene them alone, hee ſeeming that hee would worke the recouery of them by Art, and they promiſing

miſſing not to diſcloſe the man that did them good, he drew forth a little booke out of his boſome, whether it were latin, or Engliſh it ſkils not, for he could not read a word on it: then deſiring them to ſpare him alone a while, they ſhould perceiue what he could doe for them.

Their hearts encouraged with ſome good hope, kept all his words ſecret to themſelues, and not long had they ſtaken abſent out of the roome, but he called them in againe, and ſeeming as though he had bin a Beholler in deed, ſaid he found by his Figure that a Broker in ſuch a place, had their goods loſt, and in ſuch a place of the houſe they ſhould finde it; bidding them goe thither with all ſpeede, and as they found his words, ſo (with reſeruing to themſelues how they came to knowledge thereof) to meet him there againe in the Euening, and reward him as hee had deſerued.

Away in haſt goes the Taylor and the Seruingman, & entring the houſe with the Conſtable, found them in the place where hee that reuealed it, knew the Broker alwaies laid ſuch gotten goods. Of their ioy again, I leaue you to coniecture and thinke you ſee the Broker with a good paire of bolts on his heeles, ready when time ſhall ſerue, to take his turne in a halter. The cunning crafty knaue went thus far beyond the Broker, and (as I haue heard) was paid his fiue pounds that night. And thus you may ſee the old ſaying verified, That a crafty knaue needs no Broker. One crafty knaue hauing thus beguiled another, that he brought him in danger of the Gallowes. Now heere Conſcience brings in an other ieſt that hapned during the time of his impriſonment, wherein Corruption plaied the chiefe part.

How a Iaylor was corrupted to giue certain priſoners leaue to goe abroad without Keepers.

BEing (as I told you before) arreſted, and clapt vp in the Iayle, from whence you haue me, I ſaw and obſerued many ſtrange, and almoſt incredible practiſes of

our Keeper, a good comly proportioned man, and fit for all companies but good mens, to whom he was a mortal enemy: Cut-purses, and men of that quality that wanted no money, were debarred of no liberty: the Orchard to walke in, the Garden to shoot or bowle in: provided their fellows abroade, now and then visited them, and forgot not the Keeper, they had all things at command. Amongst many of these (to a well knowne, yet wincked at) I observed one notable peece of villany, and that was this.

Our Keeper (as I said) being a bon Companion, as they terme it, and one that would rather take two purses, then loose one, was inleagued with all the nightwanderers of the Cumgrey: And it hapned a couple of ranckeriders, that lived onely upon Moonshine Evenings, and misty mornings for bidding a gentleman stand instead of good-morrow, were apprehended, and committed to prison: where having store of Crownes, the Keeper and they were hale fellowes, well met, which continued till their gold fell to an ebbe: well, live they must, and fare of the best they will, and money they have none: Now marke how ready this crafty Arch-villaine Corruption is, to take hold upon the least occasion that makes for his benefit.

They seeing the condition of their Keeper to bee as most men are, coveteous of Crownes, and onthat thought the sauoure of gain sweet, though gathered from the smoke of Chimneys. One day trayning him into the Garden, began to breake with him to this purpose; Sir so it is, we are Gentlemen, and hold you a man of so good and well temper'd constitution, that wee intend to trust not onely our hope of life, but very heart and soule of our secrets into your bosome, and will you but observe one course that we have plotted in our thoughts, you shall not onely highly pleasure us, but without any noted prejudice, much advantage your self: The Keeper ready of nature, tooke hold of the last word (vantage) and his greedy thoughts like a woman with child, longed till they saw their deere begotten babe Commodity borne.

Therefore in a reioice, not onely to conceale, but with the

the vtmoſt ſtrength of his indeauours, to aſſiſt and further their proceedings of what condition ſoeuer. After a pottle of wine ſent for into the Arbor, he deſired them to impart their ſeeretſ, which brickely tended to this effect; Sir (quoth one of theſe goodfellowes) you ſee our meanes begin to grow ſhort. And by reaſon of our reſtrained liberty we cannot get abroade to increaſe it: would it lay in my power (quoth the Keeper to helpe it, why ſo it doth, quoth the other, and thats the very end of our ſuit, I know you haue a couple of good geldings in your ſtable, lend vs them for a day or two, and to colour our abſence, giue it out that we are ſicke, and kéep our chambers, and let vs alone, there ſhall not a paſſenger of any ſort paſſe, till his purſe hath paid vs tribute. If we feare any purſuit, your Jayle is as ſafe as a Sanctuary: Graunt but this, and you ſhal haue your full ſhare, abſent, or preſent, as déep as any. The Jayler in a full carowſe of the beſt blood of the grape, ſwore to conceale, and what in him lay, to aide their attempt. T'was pitty of his life (anſwered Feedewell) but what ſucceſſe had they in their practiſes? Long they continued that hellish exercise, and ſo much they preſumed vpon their vnexpected Sanctuary, they would not let any paſſe, but as the proverb is, All was fiſh that came to the net: ſometimes they ſtaid out a weeke, ſometimes more, or leſſe, but ſtill their comming home paid for all: for they never came empty, but laden with golden bags, like bées to the hiue. At laſt (for ſo long goes the pitcher to the water, that it comes broken home) it was their chance to meet, and ſet vpon a Gentleman & his two men, ſtored with a thouſand marks, which was the ſame man, that at firſt was the cauſe of their impriſonment, and in the hurly burly one of their viſards fell off, by which the gentleman preſently knew him, and had a ſhrewd geſſe at the other. They not regarding any ſuch matter, being ſped of their purpoſe, ſet ſpurres to their horſe ſides, and by ſome ob-waies, rid a full ſling to their Randeuow, the Keeper himſelfe being at that inſtant in their company. They gon, the gentleman ſtraight imagined by the ſmoake whereabout the fire was, ſent

his

his man to the next Iuſtice for a warrant, to call ſuch priſoners before him, to anſwere to further obiections, by him to be alleadged. The Fellow ſpared no horſe-fleſh, but hauing got the warrant drawn, ouertooke his Maſter entering the Iaple doore, iuſt in the edge of the euening: well to be ſhort, they knock at the Caſtle gate, cald for the Keeper, word was brought he was rod from home, well, out he drawes the warrant, and by vertue of the contents, commaunded two ſuch priſoners at ſuch a time, and by ſuch a man, for ſuch an offence committed ſhould without any ſtay be brought that preſent euening before the Iuſtice, Anſwere was made, the two Gentlemen (with griefe as it ſeemed, for their offence) were ſorely ſick, and had for two daies together kept their beds: This report gaue full ſhape and proportion to his former ſuppoſe: well they knockt at their Chamber doore, no anſwere was made: with the aide and authority of the Conſtable, they broke it ope, but the Priſoners could not be found. the good wife and ſeruants were queſtioned about their depart, they knew nothing, but imagined the thieues had ſecretly broke priſon. Vpon this ſearch was made round about the chamber, but no likely meanes for their eſcape could be found, which confirmed the Gentlemans thoughts. Well downe they went with an intent to place a ſtrong watch about the Iaple, and whom ſhould her meet at the ſtayers foote, but the honeſt Keeper, and his two ſickly priſoners, whom no ſooner eſpied the gentleman, attended by officers, but their blood left their faces, and their harts fell into their heeles, as the prouerb is. Well, the Conſtable by vertue of his authority, arreſted them all of flat felony: At which the Iaylor began to ſtorme, and told him both he and the gentleman ſhould deerly repent his wrong, being as honeſt a man as himſelfe, and began to relate how the two Felons (vnknown to him) brake Priſon, and ſtole his geldings ſecretly out of his ſtable, and that hee had ſpent ſo many crownes, and rod ſo many horſes to death in their queſt: and if they had before his comming robd him of his money, he was ſorry, but there it was, and what was diminiſhed

ſhed ſhould be reſtored, and they ſatiſfie his wrongs with their lives, this bould or rather impudent excuſe (the Conſtable having a good opinion of his former converſation) paſt with them for current, and ſeeing their Commiſſion ſtrecht no farther then theſe two, they would by no meanes take charge of the Keeper: the other two they carried to the Juſtice, who (as it ſeemed) touched with the finger of remorſe, confeſſed the iuſt manner of their proceedings. And what (quoth Feedewell) became of the Boat? Fearing (as indeed it came to paſſe) that they would reueale his practiſe, he put money in his purſe, and offered to flye, but was quickly ſurpriſed, and at the next Seſſions, out of his owne Office condemned, and moſt worthily hanged. They all replyed that it was too fauourable a death. At the end of this tale they were all about to ſing Lenth to depart: May flay (quoth Nemo) and for a parting blow ile tell you one mad pranke more of a Searcher, done not long ſince at London: but becauſe I will not bee troubleſome, ile knit it vp in theſe words, &c.

How certaine Searchers made prey of a Fellow, that hid vncuſtomd goods in a priuate place of the Shippe, and how cunningly they wrought vpon him.

They haue an order amongſt them at London, that no Merchandiſe muſt be carried out of the Land, til it be cuſtomd, as they tearme it. Now to the maintaining of this decree, are certain Searchers appointed: and any ſuch vnwarranted goods, by their authority and place, they may ſeize to the Princes vſe, & part to themſelues. Amongſt many other, one honeſt fellow going to ſea, and willing to make the moſt he could of his ſmall ſtock, had beſtowed to the value of ſom twenty pounds, euen all he had, and becauſe he would not goe to the coſt to cuſtomett, hid it in a priuate place of the ſhip, and intended to ſtand to the curteſie of the Searchers: ſo it chanced, a Searcher more in hope of ſom ſmal Wribe, then any care of his duty, came aboard, and found this vncuſtomd commodity, and as his

Office warranted, might haue ſeiſed it to the Princes vſe, but the owner acquainted with their dealing, came, and put a couple of French crowns in his hand, which ſo dazled his ſight, that he wincht at his ſmall fault, and departed: but marke the profound knauery of this fellow, hee was no ſooner a ſhore, but the firſt man hee met was a fellow officer of his, to whom he imparted this newes, and halfe his gain, vrging him to goe aboord the ſame ſhip, and in ſuch a place he ſhould finde a forfeit commodity, and except he would giue him the better conſideration, he ſhould (as hee might by his Office) ſeiſe it to the Princes vſe, which tooke effect: for the poore fellow, rather then he would hazard the whole ſtocke, was content to giue the ſecond Searcher fiue pounds, for which hee was content this cuſtome of the countrey ſhould be broke, and the Prince robd of his due, but marke how this fellow was rewarded. A third ſearcher came, ſent by the meanes of the other, and without more words tooke it cleane away, and in ſtead of conuerting it to th' Kings vſe, ſold it amongſt themſelues. He was well enough ſerued (anſwered all) that for a priuate commodity would goe about to wrong the ſtate publique, but they were worthy all puniſhment poſſible, that being Officers, and ſworne to doe equity, ſhould attempt to doe ſuch a notable peece of villany, that may bring them to the Gallowes their lawfull inheritance, without the ſpeedier amendment.

Well (ſaps Nemo) hauing the night ſtraies hence, and we haue ſeuerall buſineſſe in the morning, I will proceed to ſome of Corruptions iniuries. I left at the great thiefes, and the little, ſome iudging, others hanging, but if you ſhal aſke how the King is deceiued of his cuſtomes, the Countrey wronged by reuany of forbidden Commodities? I anſwere, that it is only by Corruption, who blindes the Searchers, begs Licenſes, does all iniuries: and till his and all his Officers be cut short, there is no helpe to be hoped for.

Therefore Nemo let it bee your worke to draw an inditement againſt Corruption at the next Seſſions, and pre-

ferre

ſerre it to the great inqueſt of Honeſty, what though they bee for the moſt parte, thats the better for our purpoſe. Seeme of the old inqueſt were mart with Aſſes, that had no more wit then the gold that loaded them, others were onely fleſhmonger men, and fitter to ly and ſharpe after drinking, and their dinner, then ſit or ſtand on cauſes betweene the innocent and the guilty: diners, or the moſt part were cherithers and ſeruants of Corruption, and except ſome very few, they were hard-hearted cowardly fellowes, that for feare of Commitment durſt not ſpeake their conſciences: but our inqueſt of Honeſty are conſident men, and will rather die then deliuer vntruths: as for example,

Mr. Humf. Honeſty ꝙ Foreman.	Gabriell Goodman.
Thomas Tektroth.	Ionas Iudgement.
Daniell Dread-naught.	Bartholomew Bettercauſe.
Samuell Sufferance.	Francis Free-heart.
Peter Pay-for-all.	Nicholas No-lyer.
Clement Conſideration.	Marmaduke Man-louer.

Twelue good men and true: but if any of theſe ſhould be out of townes, or otherwiſe imployed, there is,

Ferdinando Feareleſſe.
Henry Hate-hurt.
Leonard Loue-trueth.

With ſundry other, that Honeſty will informe you of, who are no leſſe carefull for the wrongs done to vertue, though they be but a few, and poore, then the proudeſt oppreſſors are ſorry to ſee the times changed, wherein they thinke to bee called to account for their corruption, and wrongfull extortions, from the ſweat and trauell of the painefull labourer.

On this reſolution Conſcience, and Nemo agréed, and Feedewell ſaid, he would be glad all were well, ſo tiwer not long of him, for hee was not able to endure trauell by any meanes: he muſt féede, and be fat how ere the world wagge. Sir Simon Saywell ſaid, he ſpake honeſtly, and like a wiſe man, and a wealthy polititian, whoſe part it was to meddle

with nothing but their own eaſe, and to ſard of what they had, and ſtill ſo ſollow the faction of the ſtronge.

At this Conſcience and Nemo in great anger parted with them, calling them Tempozizers, belly gods, and I not not what, but they went laughing away hand in hand, to the next Tap-houſe, there to determine deeply of the matter, by which meanes I was left all a lone, wherevpon I take pen and ink, which I had by great chaunce about mee, and ſitting vpon the ſide of a green banke, having no deſke but my knee, ſet down ſo neere (as I could) the meaning and drift of their ſeuerall diſcourſes, and the rather, for that laying open ſom part of Corruptions enozmities, you might iudge with me, whether hee be not that crafty knaue, that needs no Broker, and ſuch an one as is able to confound the common eſtate and condition, both of Citty, and Countrey.

Pardon me if it anſwere not your expectation, being it was done in haſt, and but the indigeſted remnant of a dzeame: but if you fauour this, Ile ride my hozſe to death, but Ile get you a true coppy of Corruptions indite-ment, anſwers, arraignement, ſentence, and execution: and labour to frame all to your generall good likings.

FINIS.

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION